

# Chapter Twenty-Nine

In Chapter Twenty-Nine of *If These Wings Could Fly*, the focus centers on the excitement surrounding the Auburn Wolves, who have an undefeated season for the first time in nearly two decades. Sofia, a reporter, is keen on interviewing the protagonist's father about the team's success, prompting the protagonist to attend a game with Liam's family. This outing contrasts their earlier quiet ride to the game, filled with music, to a celebratory return after the Wolves' latest victory.

As they settle in Liam's basement, the atmosphere shifts to a comfortable and intimate space where Fiona showcases her dance moves in a makeshift studio. Their conversation flows from dance to the dynamics of middle school relationships, revealing the pressures of appearance and acceptance among peers. Fiona's brush-off of a boy's compliment illustrates the often superficial nature of young attraction, while her determination to enjoy the winter formal as a group underscores the shifting social landscape among teens.

Liam proves to be both playful and supportive, critiquing *Portrait of an Old Crow*, a drawing of a crow named Joe, revealing deeper themes of acceptance and drawing inspiration from unexpected places. Their dialogue is light yet meaningful, as Liam encourages the protagonist to loosen up and embrace personal flaws, culminating in a comedic moment where he sings terribly, provoking laughter.

The chapter crescendos into a pivotal moment as Liam, amid their shared laughter, musters up the courage to ask the protagonist to be his girlfriend. This question carries significant weight, reflecting the complex emotions of vulnerability and willingness to explore a deeper connection. After a teasing exchange about dating, the protagonist finally affirms her feelings, marking a new chapter as they look forward to their upcoming formal together.

Ultimately, this chapter encapsulates themes of youth, companionship, and the mixed emotions surrounding first love—highlighted by joyous moments, lighthearted banter, and the grounding comfort of shared experiences. The narrative weaves between humor and sentiment, presenting a vivid portrayal of adolescent life and relationships.